

Fair travelling and discovering the world – Tourists tell their story

Invitation to the Blogger Competition (for bloggers and all those who wish to become one)

Travel blogs are all the rage – tourists look for information about destinations, hope to get insider's tips and trust that blogs recount authentic experiences. Especially for tourists who want more than just a beach holiday, travel blogs are a welcome opportunity to become acquainted with the country and its population before the start of a journey. It is especially this wish to learn about – and the respect towards – the destination and the people living there which plays an important role in sustainable tourism!

Every traveller can make a responsible, conscious choice of tour operator, accommodation and the way of travelling and thus contribute to improving the living conditions of the population in the destination, and keep negative ecological impacts of the journey to a minimum. For years, Naturefriends International (NFI) have been championing ecologically, socio-culturally and economically sustainable tourism, which provides the population in the destinations with economic opportunities.

**We are looking for critical, humorous, controversial, enthralling,...
blog entries on the subject of "Fair Travelling".**

We want to encourage bloggers to contribute to this cause with their blog entries, to raise tourists' awareness for fair travelling: What did you experience? How do you contribute to fair tourism? How do you envision the future of tourism?

A jury consisting of experts from NFI and the tourism sector will choose the five best blog entries, which will then be published – stating the blog name – on "tourism_LOG", NFI's platform for a critical approach toward tourism.

Our tourism_LOG provides a platform for a critical approach toward the societal, ecological and economic impact of tourism. What matters to us is respect towards people, nature and the country, and the glimpse "behind the scenes" of the tourism industry. Therefore, the blog also serves to enable people and "travel aficionados" to delve into these issues – without geographical borders.

<http://tourismlog.wordpress.com>

The competition

Topics

Blog entries can be written on one or more of the following topics:

Travelling respectfully

Respect towards other cultures and the local population is the foundation for fair tourism. Respect also contributes to what I can personally gain from a journey and which prejudices I can dismiss. This, in turn, influences the way tourists are perceived by the local population.

There are many nuances to respectful tourism:

How do I, as guest, behave? How do I react in the face of language barriers? Do I really have to take a picture of everything and everyone? What can I do if I see evidence of exploitation or abuse of children?

Tourism and regional development

Tourism can provide incentives for regional development in a destination and thus help to fight poverty and social injustice. Accommodation managed by local people, local tour guides, environmental labels etc. are only a few examples of such positive incentives.

However, all too often there are also situations in which tourism exacerbates social problems and obstructs sustainable development.

Take the example of cruises: The many thousand people who go ashore in big cruise ports every day contribute almost nothing to the creation of value in the des-

tinuation. Day trips and even souvenir shops are owned by the cruise companies themselves. Tourists eat dinner aboard; local restaurants and hotels are left empty-handed.

Tourism and environment

How can I, as tourist, make sure that my journey is as environmentally friendly as possible? This does not only refer to arrival, but also to dealing with natural resources on the journey, in the hotel and during activities: Whereas water-saving is becoming increasingly self-evident to us at home, very few people pay attention to that on a journey. Especially in very dry areas, this causes shortages. There are already regions in which the local population has no access to water supply at certain times of the day – just so that tourists do not have to dispense with anything. Protection of nature and biodiversity is also important: Everyone has the responsibility to treat natural resources respectfully – also on holiday.

Find more information in our brochure „Travelling Respectfully“.

Prizes

Main prizes

Two nights with breakfast in the recently re-opened **Naturefriends house & climbing centre "Weichtalhaus"**



One night with breakfast in the **Boutiquehotel Stadthalle** in Vienna



Further prizes

2x a year's subscription of the **magazine "LEBENSART"** – the magazine for a sustainable lifestyle



4 day tickets for the **zotter chocolate manufacture** and **10 delicious chocolate bars**.



Competition

The jury will select the winners until the end of November 2015; the winners will be informed subsequently. The jury's decision is final and incontestable; there is no recourse to legal action.

Rules for entry

Every participant is entitled to submit one article. The articles need to be in German,

English or French and may be complemented by photographs. By submitting the blog entries, the author consents to the terms and conditions of participation.

All bloggers around the world are eligible to participate. Minors need a declaration of consent from a parent or legal guardian. If the terms and conditions of participation are violated against, bloggers can be excluded without notice, even after the end of the competition. In this case, awarded prizes are to be returned. Participation is free of charge.

Contents of the articles & rights of use

The blog entries need to deal with (at least) one of the three topics mentioned above. Size: maximum 5,000 characters plus a maximum of 5 photos.

The participating bloggers confirm that they own all text and image copyrights or that they have obtained these rights. Furthermore, neither text nor photographs must infringe on personal rights of people described or depicted. Articles with anti-constitutional or pornographic contents and articles which glorify violence, infringe on child protection laws or contribute to discrimination of minorities will be excluded.

In the case of a claim by a third party, the bloggers exempt Naturefriends International from the obligation to pay damages and bear the costs of any legal dispute which might arise themselves. By participating in the blog competition, the participants grant the organiser the right to use their articles within the blog competition 2015 free of

charge, mentioning the name of the author and the blog in online and print media. Fur-

Naturefriends International (NFI) is the international umbrella organisation of the Naturefriends movement, uniting over 500,000 members in 45 member organisations around the world. Founded in 1895 in Vienna, Naturefriends champion sustainable development at all levels. As member of the Green10, Naturefriends are amongst the largest European environmental organisations. Naturefriends offer leisure-time activities, have a network of over 1000 Naturefriends houses and launch international environmental campaigns.

More information:

www.nf-int.org, <http://www.respect.at>

thermore, NFI is authorised to translate articles into English and/or German if necessary and publish these translations as well. Participants are entitled to use the articles for their own purposes.

Data collected is only used in the course of the competition and will not be passed on to third parties.

Submission

Blog entries can be submitted in digital form only, via e-mail to blog2015@nf-int.org. Please indicate your first and last name, the name of the blog and a valid e-mail address.

Deadline for submissions:

15 November 2015

File names

*Bloggerwettbewerb2015_country_first
name last name_blog name_title*

*e.g.: Bloggerwettbewerb2015_UK_ John Q
Public_travelblog_travelling respectfully
(please do not use umlauts)*

**Up-to-date information on the competition
can be found on:**

tourismlog.wordpress.com

Publisher:
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Background picture: NFI Project
„Grüne Wege“: „Alpiner Weg“,
Karask (2001)

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ÖSTERREICHISCHE
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2015
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Our partners and sponsors

Naturefriends house Weichtalhaus

The training and climbing centre "Weichtalhaus" is located in the Höllental valley between Schneeberg and Rax, the highest mountains in Lower Austria. After the re-opening this autumn, Naturefriends can look forward to numerous hiking, climbing and relaxation possibilities in a beautiful landscape. And those who've always wanted to try the climbing wall can even take climbing classes here.

Find more information on www.weichtalhaus.com



Boutiquehotel Stadthalle in Vienna

The Boutiquehotel Stadthalle is a green oasis in Vienna and the world's first city hotel with a zero-energy balance. We generate our own energy; we have a lavender field on our roof, a peaceful garden to relax and a regional/organic breakfast buffet. The Boutiquehotel Stadthalle is Vienna's flagship company for eco-friendliness and sustainability in tourism. Everyone who arrives by train or bike receives our Green Bonus: -10 %.

Find more information on www.hotelstadthalle.at



LEBENSART – the magazine for a sustainable lifestyle

You live your life just as you like but always stay fair towards other people and the world? If this is the case, LEBENSART is the magazine you need – you'll get to know many like-minded people. The well-researched, inspiring articles cover a range of topics with great ease, from healthy food and worthwhile destinations over alternative energies to a sustainable society. Fascinating personalities talk about their commitment and how they make the world a little better; experts reveal developments of the future and committed journalists identify sustainable trends.

Order a sample copy: www.lebensart.at

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Endless chocolate for EVERYONE! at zotter's in Riegersburg



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Find more information on zotter.at

Odyssee travels



As CSR-certified travel agency, Odyssee enables people to discover the world. As flat-sharing agency, Odyssee provides people with a temporary home in Vienna and in the entire world. That way, we bring together people of different nationalities and cultures!

For us, a good journey or good living conditions mean that they are free of negative impacts on people and nature and leave everyone with a good feeling: travellers and hosts, those living and those organising. That's the perfect prerequisite for a wonderful holiday and wonderful home – taking it even further, for a wonderful world.

Find more information on www.odyssee-reisen.at